



**U.S. Department of Justice**

*United States Attorney  
Eastern District of Wisconsin*

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*517 East Wisconsin Avenue*

*Milwaukee, WI 53202*

**PRESS RELEASE**

August 10, 2009

**Brown Packing Company, Inc. of South Holland Illinois Agrees to pay \$2,000,000 as Part of Plea Agreement to Felony Conspiracy to Commit Mail and Wire Fraud**

United States Attorney Michelle L. Jacobs announced today that Brown Packing Company, Inc. and its principals, John A. Oedzes (62) of Burr Ridge, Illinois, Brian G. Oedzes (47) of Dyer, Indiana, and Bryan S. Oedzes (37) of Dyer, Indiana, have been charged in a three-count Information, and all have agreed to plead guilty. Plea agreements were also filed today. The corporation will plead guilty to a felony conspiracy to commit mail and wire fraud, and the individuals will plead guilty to misdemeanors under the Federal Food Drug and Cosmetic Act, and the Federal Meat Inspection Act. As part of the plea, the corporation will pay a \$2 million forfeiture and enter into an administrative Consent Decision that increases regulatory oversight of the corporation's slaughter facility in South Holland, Illinois. The individuals each could receive a one-year prison sentence and a \$100,000 fine. This resolution sends a strong message that the government will not tolerate intentional or negligent actions by industry that affect the public health.

As charged in the Information, from December 1997 through May 2004, Brown Packing unlawfully implanted hormones and steroids in its formula-fed veal calves, which were raised in Wisconsin and elsewhere, and then slaughtered at its facility in South Holland. The adulterated veal was then sold throughout the United States. The Information charges that Brown Packing's web-based advertising falsely claimed that its veal was "all-natural" and met or exceeded all USDA food safety standards. In addition, Brown Packing opposed industry efforts to obtain Food and Drug Administration approval for the use of these substances because consumers would not purchase implanted veal. While these substances may lawfully be used in some circumstances in beef cattle, they have never been approved for use in formula-fed veal.

This legal action and significant case outcome is a result of a joint investigation conducted by the Food and Drug Administration's Office of Criminal Investigations and USDA's Food Safety and Inspection Service investigators, and serves as a positive example of the collaboration of the two federal food safety agencies to protect public health.

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